

REMARKS

Status Summary

In this Amendment, no claims are canceled, and claims 109 through 112 are added. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-112 will be pending.

Information Disclosure Statements

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Official Action, it is indicated that the Information Disclosure Statements filed on 3/26/2001 and 6/11/2001 fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each publication to be included in an information disclosure statement. Applicants respectfully submit that the Information Disclosure Statements filed on 3/26/2001 and 6/11/2001 comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. In particular, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to C.F.R. § 1.98(d)(1), which states:

(d) A copy of any patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information, as specified in paragraph (a) of this section, listed in an information disclosure statement is required to be provided, even if the patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information was previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office in an earlier application, unless:

- (1) The earlier application is properly identified in the information disclosure statement and is relied upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120; and
- (2) The information disclosure statement submitted in the earlier application complies with paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section.

In the Information Disclosure Statements filed on 3/26/2001 and 6/11/2001, Applicants properly identified commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. patent application No. 09/205,809, which Applicants claim the benefit for an earlier effective filing date under

35 U.S.C. § 120. (See page 6 of information disclosure statement filed 6/11/2001 and page 8 of Information Disclosure Statement filed 3/26/2001.) For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements are attached hereto. As indicated on the return-receipt postcards in the attached Information Disclosure Statement copies, copies of the references that were not cited in the parent application were provided with the Information Disclosure Statements dated 3/26/2001 and 6/11/2001. The Examiner's consideration of the documents cited in the previously-filed Information Disclosure Statements is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 through 108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,966,431 to Reiman et al. (hereinafter, "Reiman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Present Invention

The present invention, for example, as claimed in independent claims 1, 37, 57, and 88, includes methods and network elements for providing front end processing service for a plurality of SCP or database nodes and eliminating the need for individual front end processors at the SCP or database nodes. For example, independent claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A network element for providing service control point (SCP) or database node front end processing (FEP) service and routing data packets through a communications network, the network element comprising:

- (a) a first communication module capable of transmitting data packets to and receiving data packets from a first communications network;
- (b) a second communication module capable of transmitting data packets to and receiving data packets from a second communications network;
- (c) a packet discrimination process for determining whether a data packet received from one of the first and second communications networks is intended for an SCP or database node that is provisioned to receive front end processing (FEP) service;
- (d) a database access control (DAC) database containing information related to SCP or database nodes that are provisioned to receive FEP service; and
- (e) a DAC process for querying the DAC database and modifying the received packet to include information returned by the DAC database, wherein the network element is adapted to provide FEP service for a plurality of SCP or database nodes being separate from the network element and to eliminate the need for the SCP or database nodes to have individual front end processors.

Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 37, 57, and 88. One problem with conventional SCP nodes is discussed on page 7 beginning at line 9 of the present specification. This portion of the specification states:

As described above, each complete SCP unit is equipped with a front end processor that is responsible for managing the unit's associated database resources. Such management functions include: protocol conversion, message parsing, administration of inbound queries and outbound responses, load sharing, etc. Each front end processor is integral with the SCP unit and consequently, there is a one-to-one relationship that exists between front end processors and SCP units. Front end processors are expensive, and what is needed is a way to reduce the overall cost of SCP units by allowing one front end processor to drive multiple SCP units.

From this paragraph, one problem with conventional SCPs is that each SCP requires an individual front end processor. Providing individual front end processors at SCPs is expensive and inefficient.

The present invention avoids this difficulty by providing front end processing service at a network routing element, such as an STP, that is separate from the SCP nodes and that eliminates the need for SCP nodes to have individual front end processors. For example, in Figure 8 of the present specification, FEP routing node 500 provides front end processing service for SCPs 220, 224, and 228. As stated in the specification, FEP routing node eliminates the need for dedicated internal front end processors at the SCPs. For example, the specification states:

When compared with the prior art network configuration illustrated in Figure 1, it will be appreciated that the inclusion of FEP routing node 500 in Figure 8 allows each of the provisioned SCPs 220, 224, and 228 to eliminate dedicated internal FEP modules. Consequently, SCP 220 simply includes a computing platform 232 that serves a database back end processor. In a similar manner, SCP 224 and 228 also include back end database computing platforms. Once again, it should be noted that each SCP 220, 224, and 228 is not required to implement a separate FEP module. (See page 30, line 23 through page 31, line 8 of the present specification.)

Thus, the front end processing capability of the present invention eliminates the need for dedicated internal front end processors at SCP nodes.

The Disclosure of Reiman

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Reiman of a network element that provides front end processing service for a plurality of SCPs and that eliminates the need for individual front end processors at the SCPs. In fact, Reiman

teaches that each ISN node **14** illustrated in Figure 1 of Reiman includes a front end processor. For example, Reiman states:

There are four major components of the BCC systems of the instant invention. These major system components are namely, gateway **20**, file server **22**, main frame **28**, and VCS **30**. Of those, gateway 20, file server 22, and VCS 30 are resident on ISN node 14. (Emphasis added.) (See column 12, line 66 through column 13, line 3 of Reiman.)

With respect to the query validation process, gateway **18** serves as the entry point to the ISN node **14** for all calling card or billed number screening queries. To do this, it receives the external TCAP formatted validation request and breaks down the SS7 message layers of the query. This front end process verifies the format of the TCAP formatted query, the message transfer part (MTP) and SCCP layers of the message. If the TCAP message format is invalid or incomplete, the query is rejected and returned to the TOPS switch. On the other hand, if the TCAP message format is complete and valid, the query is extracted for form a LIDB query, which is forwarded to file server **22** in an IPX query/message packet for further validation and processing. (Emphasis Added.) (See column 11, lines 9 through 21 of Reiman.)

From the passages above, ISN node **14** of Reiman is a service control point (SCP) that provides LIDB service. Reiman also teaches that each ISN node **14** includes its own internal gateway **18** that provides front end processing service. Thus, because Reiman teaches that each SCP includes its own internal gateway, it is respectfully submitted that Reiman teaches away from the claimed invention of eliminating such functionality at an SCP and providing front end processing service for plural SCPs at a routing node that is separate from the SCPs. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 through 108 as anticipated by Reiman is improper and should be withdrawn.

New Claims

New depending claims 109 through 112 are proposed to be added. Support for new claims 109 through 112 appears, for example, in Figure 8 of the present application, which illustrates FEP routing node **500** using the industry standard symbol for an STP.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

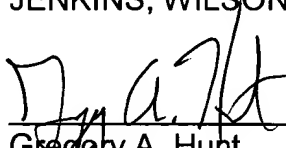
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

Date: March 16, 2004

By: _____


Gregory A. Hunt
Registration No. 41,085
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1322/2 GAH/sed/gwc
Enclosures

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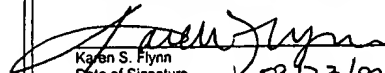
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PATENT

Technology Center 2600


Karen S. Flynn
Date of Signature 03/23/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Miller et al.

Group Art Unit: 2742

Serial No.: 09/537,835

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: March 29, 2000

Docket No.: 1322/2

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING DATABASE NODE ACCESS
CONTROL FUNCTIONALITY IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, applicants' undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the following references. Copies of the references as well as Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are attached hereto. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,195,425 to Farris discloses telecommunications system with wide area internetwork control.

U.S. Patent No. 6,157,710 to Figurski et al. discloses a method and system for distributing messages from a signal transfer point to a plurality of service control points.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,154,467 to Hager et al. discloses high speed SS7 signaling adaptation device.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,151,390 to Volftsun et al. discloses protocol conversion using channel associated signaling.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,144,670 to Sponauble et al. discloses a method and apparatus for establishing and facilitating a voice call connection from a client computer to a PSTN extension.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,144,667 to Doshi et al. discloses a network-based method and apparatus for initiating and completing a telephone call via the internet.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,134,235 to Goldman et al. discloses a plain old telephone service (POTS)/packet bridge.

U.S. Patent No. 6,122,365 to Yegoshin discloses a method and apparatus for load-balancing of call processing between multiple call-destination sites and routing of calls by way of call-destination site control.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,122,255 to Bartholomew et al. discloses an internet telephone service with mediation.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,115,383 to Bell et al. discloses a system and method of message distribution in a telecommunications network.

U.S. Patent No. 6,112,090 to Valentine discloses a system and method for forwarding calling party information.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,097,805 to Figurski et al. discloses a method and system for distributing messages from a signal transfer point to a plurality of service control points.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,097,719 to Benash et al. discloses a public IP transport network.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,094,437 to Loehndorf, Jr. et al. discloses layer two tunneling protocol (L2TP) merging and management.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,084,956 to Turner et al. discloses SS7 mediation for data network call setup and services interworking.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,084,892 to Benash et al. discloses a public IP transport network.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,078,582 to Curry et al. discloses an internet long distance telephone service.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,069,890 to White et al. discloses an internet telephone service.

U.S. Patent No. 6,067,546 to Lund discloses a method and system for providing computer-network related information about a calling party.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,064,653 to Farris discloses an internetwork gateway to gateway alternative communication.

U.S. Patent No. 6,055,302 to Schmersel et al. discloses a system and method for incoming and outgoing interrogations for store-and-forward services.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,023,502 to Bouanaka et al. discloses a method and apparatus for providing telephone billing and authentication over a computer network.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,021,126 to White et al. discloses telecommunication number portability.

U.S. Patent No. 6,018,515 to Sorber discloses message buffering for prioritized message transmission and congestion management.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,014,379 to White et al. discloses telecommunications custom calling services.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,011,803 to Bicknell et al. discloses a distributed-protocol server.

U.S. Patent No. 6,006,098 to Rathnasabapathy et al. discloses a system and method for application location register routing a telecommunications network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,974,052 to Johnson et al. discloses a frame relay access device and method for transporting SS7 information between signaling points.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,958,016 to Chang et al. discloses an internet-web link for access to intelligent network service control.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,923,659 to Curry et al. discloses a telecommunications network.

U.S. Patent No. 5,920,562 to Christie et al. discloses systems and methods for providing enhanced services for telecommunication call.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,917,900 to Allison et al. discloses a remote data gateway.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,912,887 to Sehgal discloses a system and method for implementing user-to-user data transfer services.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,892,822 to Gottlieb et al. discloses a method of and system for call routing compliant with international regulatory routing requirements.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,878,129 to Figurski et al. discloses a method and system for

distributing messages from a signal transfer point to a plurality of service control points.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,872,782 to Dendi discloses an encapsulation of proprietary protocol information conforming to the ITU-T recommendation Q.763 ISUP standard.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,870,565 to Glitho discloses a telecommunications management network connected to a common channel signaling network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,867,495 to Elliot et al. discloses a system, method and article of manufacture for communications utilizing calling, plans in a hybrid network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,852,660 to Lindquist et al. discloses a network protocol conversion module within a telecommunications system.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,838,782 to Lindquist discloses a system for converting a routing address within a telecommunications network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,828,844 to Civanlar et al. discloses an internet NCP over ATM.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,815,669 to Lee et al. discloses a method of routing a data transmission.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,812,781 to Fahlman et al. discloses a system for routing incoming connection-less messages to processes which are already handling messages from same source node.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,809,028 to Nethercott et al. discloses a protocol converter for a wireless telecommunications system.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,805,587 to Norris et al. discloses a call notification feature for a telephone line connected to the internet.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,802,285 to Hirviniemi discloses a Wide area network (WAN) interface for a transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) in a local area network (LAN).

*U.S. Patent No. 5,793,771 to Darland et al. discloses a communication gateway.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,787,255 to Parlan et al. discloses an internetworking device with enhanced protocol translation circuit.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,781,534 to Perlman et al. discloses a method and apparatus for determining characteristics of a path.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,774,695 to Autrey et al. discloses a protocol interface gateway and method of connecting an emulator to a network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,768,525 to Kralowetz et al. discloses a transparent support of protocol and data compression features for data communication.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,768,361 to Cowgill discloses a flexible enhanced signaling subsystem for a telecommunications switch.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,764,955 to Doolan discloses a gateway for using legacy telecommunications network element equipment with a common management information protocol.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,764,750 to Chau et al. discloses communicating between diverse communications environments.

U.S. Patent No. 5,761,500 to Gallant et al. discloses multi-site data communications network database partitioned by network elements.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,761,281 to Baum et al. discloses telephone call routing and switching techniques for data communications

*U.S. Patent No. 5,740,374 to Raffali-Schreinemachers discloses a system for transferring messages via different sub-networks by converting control codes into reference code compatible with a reference protocol and encapsulation the code with the message.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,712,903 to Bartholomew et al. discloses a split intelligent peripheral for broadband and narrowband services.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,706,286 to Reiman et al. discloses an SS7 gateway.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,696,809 to Voit discloses an advanced intelligent network based computer architecture for concurrent delivery of voice and text data using failure management system.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,680,552 to Netravali et al. discloses a gateway system for interconnecting different data communication networks.

U.S. Patent No. 5,675,635 to Vos et al. discloses a system and method for conducting poll at a processor associated with the originating switch.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,664,102 to Faynberg discloses an intelligent network

internetworking access arrangement.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,657,452 to Kralowetz et al. discloses transparent support of protocol and data compression features for data communication.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,651,002 to Van Seters et al. discloses an internetworking device with enhanced packet header translation and memory.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,640,446 to Everett et al. discloses a system and method of validating special service calls having different signaling protocols.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,638,431 to Everett et al. discloses a calling card validation system and method therefor.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,586,177 to Farris et al. discloses an intelligent signal transfer point (ISTP).

*U.S. Patent No. 5,583,927 to Ely et al. discloses a method and apparatus for integrating telephone and broadband networks.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,581,558 to Horney, II, et al. discloses an apparatus for bridging non-compatible network architectures.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,568,487 to Sitbon et al. discloses a process for automatic conversion for porting telecommunications applications from the TCP/IP network to the OSI-DO network, and module used in this process.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,509,010 to La Porta et al. discloses communications signaling protocols.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,430,727 to Callon discloses multiple protocol routing.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,420,916 to Sekiguchi discloses a signaling network having common signaling node for protocol conversion.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,384,840 to Blatchford et al. discloses a telecommunications system SS7 signaling interface with signal transfer capability.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,315,641 to Montgomery et al. discloses public switched telephone network access to public data network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,239,542 to Breidenstein et al. discloses a time division multiplex switching system for interconnecting telephone circuits which operate in accordance with different signaling systems and call formats.

*U.S. Patent No. 5, 208,811 to Kashio et al. discloses an interconnection system and method for heterogeneous networks.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,142,622 to Owens discloses a system for interconnecting applications across different networks of data processing systems by mapping protocols across different network domains.

*Publication by O'Shea entitled "Mating Season", Telephony, pp. 10-11 (September 20, 1999).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "Eagle® Feature Guide," Publication PN/9110-1225-01, Rev. B (January, 1998).

*Publication by O'Shea entitled "The Network that's Never Done", Telephony, pp. 38-43 (September 15, 1997).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "Eagle® STP Platform," Publication 908-0126-01, Rev. A (1997).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "Eagle® STP LAN Interface Feature," Publication 908-0134-01, Rev. B (1997).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "Eagle® STP Database Transport Access Feature," Publication 908-0136-01, Rev. B (1997).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "Eagle® STP X.25 to SS7-IS.41 Protocol Conversion Feature," Publication 908-0135-01, Rev. B (1997).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "Eagle® STP ANSI-ITU Gateway Feature," Publication 908-0133-01, Rev. B (1997).

*Publication by Tekelec entitled "SS7-Frame Relay Access Device SS7 Protocol Information Translator," Publication 908-0167-01, Rev. A (1997).

*Publication by Snyder entitled "Rerouting Internet Traffic Jams", Telephony, p. 12 (November 11, 1996).

*Publication by Snyder entitled "Branded with Optics", Telephony, pp. 49-50 (July 22, 1996).

*Publication by Anonymous entitled "Around the Loop", Telephony, p. 26 (July 22, 1996).

*In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), a copy of this publication is not included in this Information Disclosure Statement because a copy was provided in information disclosure statements submitted in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/205,809, filed December 4, 1998.

Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Although it is believed that no fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Date: 3/23/01

By: 

Gregory A. Hunt
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Enclosures

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/537,235
				Filing Date	03/29/2000
				First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
				Group Art Unit	2742
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

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Examiner Signature	<i>Thur</i>	Date Considered	05/25/04
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 18 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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			Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	1322/2	

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	05/25/04
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				Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Examiner Signature	<i>Thur</i>	Date Considered	05/25/04
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/537,835
Filing Date	03/29/2000
First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
Group Art Unit	2742
Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code² (if known)			
TT	A	5,142,622		Owens	08/25/1992	
TT	B	5,208,811		Kashio et al.	05/04/1993	
TT	C	5,239,542		Breidenstein et al.	08/24/1993	
TT	D	5,384,840		Blatchford et al.	01/24/1995	
TT	E	5,420,916		Sekiguchi	05/30/1995	
TT	F	5,509,010		La Porta et al.	04/16/1996	
TT	G	5,568,487		Sitbon et al.	10/22/1996	
TT	H	5,581,558		Horney, II et al.	12/03/1996	
TT	I	5,583,927		Ely et al.	12/10/1996	
TT	J	5,586,177		Farris et al.	12/17/1996	
TT	K	5,638,431		Everett et al.	06/10/1997	
TT	L	5,640,446		Everett et al.	06/17/1997	
TT	M	5,651,002		Van Seters et al.	07/22/1997	
TT	N	5,664,102		Faynberg	09/02/1997	
TT	O	5,680,552		Netravali et al.	10/21/1997	
TT	P	5,696,809		Voit	12/09/1997	
TT	Q	5,706,286		Reiman et al.	01/06/1998	
TT	R	5,712,903		Bartholomew et al.	01/27/1998	
TT	S	5,740,374		Raffali-Schreinemachers	04/14/1998	
TT	T	5,764,955		Doolan	06/09/1998	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

Date Considered

05/25/04

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/537,235
				Filing Date	03/29/2000
				First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
				Group Art Unit	2742
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	2	of	2		

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	05/25/04
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			Examiner Name	Not Assigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	05/24/04
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				Filing Date	03/29/2000
				First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
				Group Art Unit	2742
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/537,835
Filing Date	03/29/2000
First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
Group Art Unit	2742
Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Date	
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				Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	2	of	2		

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Examiner Signature	<i>Thur</i>	Date Considered	05/25/04
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	09/537,835
		Filing Date	03/29/2000
		First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
		Group Art Unit	2742
		Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Sheet 1	of 2	Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
TT	A	5,315,641		Montgomery et al.	05/24/1994	
TT	B	5,430,727		Callon	07/04/1995	
TT	C	5,657,452		Kralowetz et al.	08/12/1997	
TT	D	5,680,552		Netravali et al.	10/21/1997	
TT	E	5,761,281		Baum et al.	06/02/1998	
TT	F	5,764,750		Chau et al.	06/09/1998	
TT	G	5,768,525		Kralowetz et al.	06/16/1998	
TT	H	5,781,534		Perlman et al.	07/14/1998	
TT	I	5,802,285		Hirviniemi	09/01/1998	
TT	J	5,805,587		Norris et al.	09/08/1998	
TT	K	5,809,028		Nethercott et al.	09/15/1998	
TT	L	5,812,781		Fahlman et al.	09/22/1998	
TT	M	5,815,669		Lee et al.	09/29/1998	
TT	N	5,828,844		Civanlar et al.	10/27/1998	
TT	O	5,838,782		Lindquist	11/17/1998	
TT	P	5,852,660		Lindquist et al.	12/22/1998	
TT	Q	5,867,495		Elliot et al.	02/02/1999	
TT	R	5,870,565		Glitho	02/09/1999	
TT	S	5,872,782		Dendi	02/16/1999	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	<i>Ther</i>	Date Considered	05/25/04
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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	09/537,835
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	03/29/2000
		First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
		Group Art Unit	2742
		Examiner Name	Not Assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	1	of	1

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
TT	AA	"Eagle® Feature Guide," Publication PN/9110-1225-01, Rev. B, Tekelec (January, 1998)	
TT	BB	"Eagle® STP Platform," Publication 908-0126-01, Rev. A, Tekelec (1997)	
TT	CC	"Eagle® STP STP LAN Interface Feature," Publication 908-0134-01, Rev. B, Tekelec (1997)	
TT	DD	"Eagle® STP Database Transport Access Feature," Publication 908-0136-01, Rev. B, Tekelec (1997)	
TT	EE	"Eagle® STP X.25 to SS7-IS.41 Protocol Conversion Feature," Publication 908-0135-01, Rev. B, Tekelec (1997)	
TT	FF	"Eagle® STP ANSI-ITU Gateway Feature," Publication 908-0133-01, Rev. B, Tekelec (1997)	
TT	GG	"SS7-Frame Relay Access Device SS7 Protocol Information Translator," Publication 908-0167-01, Rev. A, Tekelec (1997)	

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		Application Number	09/537,235
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	03/29/2000
		First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
		Group Art Unit	2742
		Examiner Name	Not Assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	1	of	1

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
TT	A	O'SHEA, "Mating Season," Telephony, p. 10-11, (September 20, 1999).	
TT	B	O'SHEA, "The Network that's Never Done," Telephony, p. 38-43, (September 15, 1997).	
TT	C	SNYDER, "Rerouting Internet Traffic Jams," Telephony, p. 12, (November 11, 1996).	
TT	D	SNYDER, "Branded with Optics," Telephony, p. 49-50, (July 22, 1996).	
TT	E	ANONYMOUS, "Around the Loop," Telephony, p. 26, (July 22, 1996).	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	05/25/04
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			Filing Date	03/29/2000	
			First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller	
			Group Art Unit	2742	
			Examiner Name	Not Assigned	
			Attorney Docket Number	1322/2	
Sheet	1	of	1		

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				First Named Inventor	Miller et al.
				Group Art Unit	2742
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	1322/2
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Sheet	1	of	1	

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GREGORY A. HUNT

JOHN A. LAMERDIN, PH.D. (PATENT AGENT)

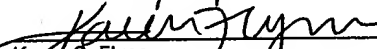
JULIE A. BROADUS, PH.D. (PATENT AGENT)

E. ERIC MILLS, P.E. (PATENT AGENT)

March 23, 2001

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03/23/01



Karen S. Flynn
Date of Signature

03/23/01

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAR 19 2004

Technology Center 2600

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/537,835 for
METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING DATABASE NODE ACCESS
CONTROL FUNCTIONALITY IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
Our File No. 1322/2

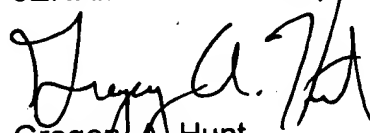
Sir:

Please find enclosed in connection with the subject U.S. patent application the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (8 pages);
2. Forms PTO/SB/08A (13 pages), in duplicate;
3. Forms PTO/SB/08B (2 pages), in duplicate;
4. Copies of cited references (10 references);
5. A return-receipt postcard to be returned to us with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office filing stamp thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.



Gregory A. Hunt
Registration No. 41,085

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Enclosures

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 7, 2001

April N. Williams
April N. Williams
Date of Signature 6/7/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Miller et al.

Group Art Unit: 2742

Serial No.: 09/537,835

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: March 29, 2000

Docket No.: 1322/2

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING DATABASE NODE ACCESS CONTROL FUNCTIONALITY IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ROUTING NODE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, applicants' undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the following references. Copies of the cited references, Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are attached hereto. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,215,783 to Neyman discloses a private IP telephony backbone linking widely-distributed enterprise sites.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,201,804 to Kikinis discloses a network telephony interface systems between data network telephony and plain old telephone service including CTI enhancement.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,195,425 to Farris discloses a telecommunications system with wide area internetwork control.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,154,467 to Hager et al. discloses a high speed SS7 signaling adaptation device.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,137,874 to Brown et al. discloses a method of using carrier information for enhanced call data processing by a telecommunications provider.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,137,869 to Voit et al. discloses network session management.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,134,246 to Cai et al. discloses inverse multiplexing within asynchronous transfer mode communication networks.

*U.S. Patent No. H1,896 to Hoffpauir et al. discloses a network management system server and method for operation.

*U.S. Patent No. H1,880 to Vines et al. discloses a system and method for processing wireless voice and data telecommunications.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,125,111 to Snow et al. discloses architecture for a modular communications switching system.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,119,160 to Zhang et al. discloses multiple-level internet protocol accounting.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,111,893 to Volftsun et al. discloses universal protocol conversion.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,079,036 to Moharram discloses call message with traveling log for testing intelligent telecommunications network.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,075,783 to Voit discloses internet phone to PSTN cellular/PCS system.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,069,890 to White et al. discloses an internet telephone service.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,047,005 to Sherman et al. discloses virtual bearer channel platform for processing service requests received in the form of channel data.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,026,091 to Christie et al. discloses an ATM gateway system.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,021,126 to White et al. discloses telecommunication number portability.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,018,515 to Sorber discloses message buffering for prioritized message transmission and congestion management.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,011,780 to Vaman et al. discloses a transparent non-disruptable ATM network.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,949,871 to Kabay et al. discloses a method and apparatus for providing a service in a switched telecommunications system wherein a control message is altered by a receiving party.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,940,598 to Strauss et al. discloses a telecommunications network to internetwork universal server.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,926,482 to Christie et al. discloses a telecommunications apparatus, system, and method with an enhanced signal transfer point.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,889,954 to Gessell et al. discloses a network manager providing advanced interconnection capability.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,852,660 to Lindquist et al. discloses a network protocol conversion module within a telecommunications system.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,701,301 to Weisser, Jr. discloses mediation of open advanced intelligent network in SS7 protocol open access environment.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,675,635 to Vos et al. discloses a system and method for conducting poll at a processor associated with the originating switch.

*U.S. Patent No. 5,008,929 to Olsen et al. discloses a billing system for telephone signaling network.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,236,722 to Gilbert et al. discloses a method and system for using TCAP signaling for improved call setup from a virtual switching point.

*U.S. Patent No. 6,011,794 to Mordowitz et al. discloses an internet based telephone apparatus and method.

*International Patent Publication No. WO/0033519 to Simon discloses an improved signaling system for telecommunications.

*International Patent Publication No. WO/0031933 to Elliott et al. discloses a voice over data telecommunications network architecture.

*International Patent Publication No. WO/0030369 to Graf et al. discloses security in telecommunications network gateways.

*International Patent Publication No. WO/9711563 to Christie et al. discloses a telecommunications apparatus, system and method with an enhanced signal transfer point.

*International Patent Publication No. WO/0022840 to Huopaniemi et al. discloses a method and system for forming a telecommunication connection.

International Patent Publication No. WO/0056032 to Costa et al. discloses telecommunications signaling using the internet protocol.

*Publication by Zaharychuk et al. entitled "Gateway Signal Transfer Points: Design, Services and Benefits," IEEE, pp. 223.2.1-223.2.8 (1990).

*Publication by Bootman et al. entitled "Generic Building Blocks for the Telecommunications Management Network," IEEE, pp. 6.1.1-6.1.5 (1988).

*Publication by Bootman entitled "Intelligent Network Services Using a Service Switching Node," IEEE, pp. 40.7.1-40.2.4 (1988).

*Publication by Buckles entitled "Very High Capacity Signaling Transfer Point For Intelligent Network Services," IEEE, pp. 40.2.1-40.2.4 (1988).

The examiner's attention is further directed to the commonly-assigned co-pending U.S. patent applications listed in the following table. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(b)(3), each of the commonly-assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent Applications are identified by inventor, application number, and filing date.

Inventor(s)	Application Number	Filing Date
Paul A. Miller, Venkataramaiah Ravishankar, David M. Sprague Dan A. Brendes	*09/205,809	December 4, 1998
Paul A. Miller, Venkataramaiah Ravishankar, Peter J. Marsico	*09/543,135	April 5, 2000
David M. Sprague, Dan A. Brendes, Venkataramaiah	*09/443,712	November 19, 1999

Inventor(s)	Application Number	Filing Date
Ravishankar, Paul A. Miller		
Paul A. Miller, Venkataramaiah Ravishankar	*09/541,853	April 5, 2000
Paul A. Miller, Venkataramaiah Ravishankar, Peter J. Marsico	*09/559,767	April 27, 2000
Robby D. Benedyk, David M. Sprague, Dan Alan Brendes	*09/588,852	June 6, 2000
Robby D. Benedyk, Dan A. Brendes, David M. Sprague, Mark E. Davidson, Peter J. Marsico	*09/839,394	April 20, 2001
Robert J. Tinsley, Peter J. Marsico, David M. Sprague	*09/618,807	July 28, 2000
Dan A. Brendes, Joseph W. Keller, Seetharaman Khadri	*09/770,316	January 26, 2001
Robert J. Tinsley, Peter J. Marsico, Lee B. Smith, Virgil E. Long, Gregory A. Hunt	*09/768,881	January 24, 2001
Robby D. Benedyk, Cory	*09/735,142	December 12, 2000

Inventor(s)	Application Number	Filing Date
A. Grant, Peter J. Marsico, John R. Mason		

* Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)(1), a copy of the identified co-pending U.S. patent application or reference is not attached hereto because a copy was provided in commonly-assigned co-pending U.S. patent application number 09/205,809, which is relied upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120.

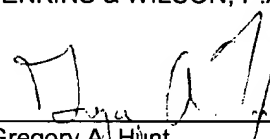
Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Date: June 7 2001

By:


 Gregory A. Hunt
 Registration No. 41,085

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 Facsimile: (919) 419-0383

1322/2 GAH/anw

Enclosures

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 1 of 2

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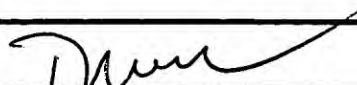
Application Number	09/537,835
Filing Date	03/29/2001
First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
Group Art Unit	2742
Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
II	A	6,215,783		Neyman	04/10/2001	
II	B	6,201,804		Kikinis	03/13/2001	
II	C	6,195,425		Farris	02/27/2001	
II	D	6,154,467		Hager et al.	11/28/2000	
II	E	6,137,874		Brown et al.	10/24/2000	
II	F	6,137,869		Voit et al.	10/24/2000	
II	G	6,134,246		Cai et al.	10/17/2000	
II	H	H1,896		Hoffpauir et al.	10/03/2000	
II	I	H1,880		Vines et al.	10/03/2000	
II	J	6,125,111		Snow et al.	09/26/2000	
II	K	6,119,160		Zhang et al.	09/12/2000	
II	L	6,111,893		Volftsun et al.	08/29/2000	
II	M	6,079,036		Moharram	06/20/2000	
II	N	6,075,783		Voit	06/13/2000	
II	O	6,069,890		White et al.	05/30/2000	
II	P	6,047,005		Shermann et al.	04/04/2000	
II	Q	6,026,091		Christie et al.	02/15/2000	
II	R	6,021,126		White et al.	02/01/2000	
II	S	6,018,515		Sorber	06/25/2000	
II	T	6,011,780		Vaman et al.	01/04/2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
II	E1	WO	00/33519		Simon	06/08/2000		X
II	F1	WO	00/31933		Elliott et al.	06/02/2000		X
II	G1	WO	00/30369		Graf et al.	05/25/2000		X
II	H1	WO	97/11563		Christie et al.	03/27/1997		X
II	I1	WO	00/22840		Huopaniemi et al.	04/20/2000		X
II	J1	WO	00/56032		Costa et al.	09/21/2000		X

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Signature

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 2 of 2

Application Number	09/205,809
Filing Date	12/04/1998
First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
Group Art Unit	2742
Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1322/7

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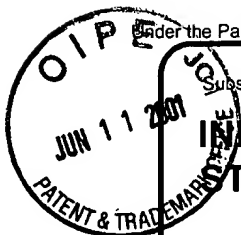
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Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/537,835
Filing Date	03/29/2000
First Named Inventor	Paul Andrew Miller
Group Art Unit	2742-2665
Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1322/2

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	A	ZAHARYCHUK ET AL., "Gateway Signal Transfer Points: Design, Services and Benefits," IEEE, p. 223.2.1- 223.2.8, (May 29, 1990).	
	B	BOOTMAN ET AL., "Generic Building Blocks for the Telecommunications Management Network," IEEE, p. 6.1.1-6.1.5, (May 29, 1988).	
	C	BOOTMAN, "Intelligent Network Services Using a Service Switching Node," IEEE, p. 40.7.1-40.2.4, (May 29, 1988).	
	D	BUCKLES, "Very High Capacity Signaling Transfer Point For Intelligent Network Services," IEEE, p. 40.2.1-40.2.4, (1988).	

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June 7, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. on
June 7, 2001

April N. Williams
April N. Williams
Date of Signature 6/7/01

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/537,835 for
METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING DATABASE NODE ACCESS
CONTROL FUNCTIONALITY IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
Our File No. 1322/2

Sir:

Please find enclosed in connection with the subject U.S. patent application the following documents:

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (6 pages);
2. Forms PTO/SB/08A (2 pages), in duplicate;
3. Forms PTO/SB/08B (1 page), in duplicate;
4. Copy of 1 newly cited reference; and
5. A return-receipt postcard to be returned to us with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office filing stamp thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Gregory A. Hunt
Gregory A. Hunt
Registration No. 41,085

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Serial No.: 09/537,835
Applicant: Miller et al.

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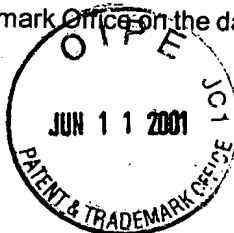
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Serial No.: 09/537,835
Applicant: Miller et al.

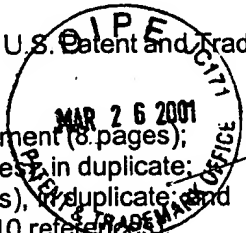
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